

Message Text

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ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01

/024 W

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R 090405Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3219

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 8372

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MILI PINR ID

SUBJ: BIO DATA ON NEW MILITARY AND CIVILIAN

CHIEFS OF GOI ICCS CONTINGENT

1. FOLLOWING IS MOST COMPLETE BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION AVIALABLE ON MAJOR GENERAL MOHAMMAD CHARIS SUHUD, INCOMING COMMANDER OF INDONESIAN ICCS CONTINGENT, AND ZAINUL ARIFIN SAMIL, INCOMING CHIEF COVILIAN REPRESENTATIVE OF GOI DELEGATION. BOTH ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN SAIGON SHORTLY TO TAKE UP THEIR POSITIONS.

2. SUHUD, 49, IS PROFESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICER, AND COMES TO ICCS ASSIGNMENT AFTER BEING ASSISTANT CHIEF OF STAFF FOR INTELLIGENCE OF GOI DEFENSE AND SECURITY DEPARTMENT (HANKAM). ORIGINALLY AN INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WITH SILIWANGI DIVISION (WEST JAVA) IN MID-50S, SUHUD RECEIVED US INTELLIGENCE TRAINING IN HAWAII IN 1959 AND SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO US TWICE FOR TRAINING IN INTELLIGENCE AND TO ATTEND FT LEAVENWORTH COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE. HE WAS MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON AS ONE OF THEIR "US SPECIALISTS" AND IS ALSO ONE OF THOSE IN GOI WHO HAS FOLLOWED INDOCHINA EVENTS MOST CLOSELY. HE IS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND UNTYPICALLY (FOR A JAVANESE) DIRECT IN MANNER. HE SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH.

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3. SUHUD DOES NOT ATTEMPT TO CONCEAL HIS PERSONAL PESSI-

MISM REGARDING SURVIVAL OF A NON-COMMUNIST VIETNAM. ALTHOUGH WELL KNOWN TO THE EMBASSY FOR MANY YEARS, SUHUD HAS AT TIMES RECENTLY BEEN LESS THAN ACCOMMODATING WITH DAO IN GRANTING REQUESTS FOR APPOINTMENTS AND HAS SOMETIMES CONVEYED INFORMATION WHICH PROVED INACCURATE. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD HIS UPCOMING ASSIGNMENT APPEARS UNCERTAIN, IN LIGHT OF HIS VIEWS ON VIETNAM AND OF LIKELIHOOD THAT HIS TRANSFER FROM HANKAM STAFF TO VIETNAM WAS AT LEAST PARTIALLY MOTIVATED BY OFFICIAL DISPLEASURE OVER HIS PERFORMANCE AT HANKAM IN CONNECTION WITH PREDICTION AND CONTROL OF JANUARY 15 JAKARTA RIOTS.

4. SAMIL, ALSO IN HIS LATE 40'S, HAS BEEN HEAD OF AMERICAN DIRECTORATE, DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SINCE LATE 1973. HE IS CHEERFUL AND INTELLIGENT, AND HAS BEEN VERY COOPERATIVE WITH EMBASSY DURING HIS TENURE WITH AMERICAN DIRECTORATE; ACCORDING TO SEVERAL OBSERVERS, HE WAS FIRST HIGH-CALIBRE PERSON TO RUN DIRECTORATE IN SOME TIME. SAMIL PREVIOUSLY LECTURED FOR THREE YEARS AT ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF SCHOOL (SESKOAD); HE ALSO DID STAFF WORK AT NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL, WHERE HE DEALT MAINLY WITH EUROPEAN AFFAIRS AND WHERE HE REMAINS ACTIVE. SAMIL SERVED AS DCM IN BOTH BONN (1966-68) AND THE HAGUE (1968-70). HE WAS EDUCATED IN PHILIPPINES (POLITICAL SCIENCE, ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION) AND HOLLAND (LAW). HE IS FROM SOUTHERN SUMATRA (LAMPUNG); IS MARRIED AND HAS SEVERAL CHILDREN. HIS ENGLISH IS QUITE GOOD.

5. SAMIL RECENTLY ESTIMATED TO EMBOFFS THAT HIS VIETNAM ASSIGNMENT WOULD RUN INITIALLY SIX TO NINE MONTHS, WITH POSSIBILITY OF SUBSEQUENT EXTENSION. SAMIL APPEARS TO BE LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS FIRST AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENT AND IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFFS HAS EXPRESSED OPINIONS ON VIETNAM AND INDONESIAN ROLE IN ICCS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN SUHUD'S. WE WOULD ANTICIPATE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN SAMIL AND EMBASSY SAIGON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, MILITARY PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JAKART08372
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740181-0889
From: JAKARTA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740766/aaaacedg.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION INR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIO DATA ON NEW MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CHIEFS OF GOI ICCS CONTINGENT
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, PINR, ID, ICCS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005